

AMENDMENT
Appln. No.: 09/481,069

REMARKS

Claims 1-113 are all the claims pending in the application, and stand rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as follows:

- Claims 1-30, 32-41, 43, 45-58, 60-67, 78-90, 96 and 97 as being unpatentable over Isaacson et al.(Isaacson) in view of Danknick et al. (Danknick);
- Claims 31, 42, 44 and 79 as being unpatentable over Isaacson in view of Danknick and further in view of Noble et al. (Noble);
- Claim 59 as being unpatentable over Isaacson in view of Danknick and further in view of Dunphy et al. (Dunphy); and
- Claims 91-95 as being unpatentable over Danknick.

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting a very productive personal interview with Applicants' representative on June 20,2001, and subsequent telephonic interviews.

As discussed with the Examiner, Applicants amend the independent claims more clearly to define the features of various embodiments of Applicants' invention as recited in 1, 8, 18, 36, 39, 43, 49, 55, 59, 67, 78, 80, 86, 91, 94 and 95. These amendments are not intended to narrow the scope of the original independent claims, but to more clearly define the features which were believed to have been implicitly defined in these claims as previously amended by Applicants' Preliminary Amendment filed March 9, 2001. Accordingly, these amendments are not subject to a *Festo* estoppel.

With regard to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections, as explained in great detail during the interviews, none of the prior art references discloses, teaches or suggest systems, methods and software for production of documentation for configurable computerized systems having at least the feature of:

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organizing said explanatory information [“corresponding with at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter”] ... into a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting the documentation, or a portion of the documentation, for said configurable system (Applicants’ independent claim 1; see also claims 36, 49, 78, 94 and 95)

or

outputting explanatory information corresponding with at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion thereof (Applicants’ independent claim 8; see also claims 18, 39, 43, 55, 59, 67, 80, 86 and 91)

In particular, Isaacson provides “a method and apparatus for automatically configuring a number of communication programs that are resident on a number of computer platforms,” wherein “[t]he configuration program solicits user configuration information from a user through a user interface” (Id., col. 2, lines 17-27). Thus, in contrast to Applicants’ claimed invention, Isaacson configures programs resident on configurable computerized systems (i.e., the “computer platforms”), rather than organizing or outputting explanatory information to form documentation for these systems. As such, the Examiner acknowledges that Isaacson does not disclose, teach or suggest “outputting explanatory text segments corresponding with at least one of said configuration parameters ...” (See Office Action, pages 3-4).

On the other hand, Danknick discloses a method and apparatus for communicating with a network peripheral (such as a copier) wherein current configuration settings of the peripheral are transferred and displayed in the form of an “Administration” HTML page 150 downloaded from the HTTP server 64. (See Danknick, col. 7, lines 1-20, and Figs. 9 and 10). As explained during the interview, Danknick’s “Administration” HTML page does not organize or output information

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in “a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system” [such system as, HTTP server 64, a network, or a copier attached thereto], and does not form or constitute “the documentation or a portion thereof” of the configurable system, as required by Applicants’ claimed invention.

That is, Danknick’s HTML page does not contain information presented in a narrative format so as to form documentation of a configurable system, but is a user interface wherein configuration parameters of a peripheral are displayed together with icons “which, when selected, cause administrative functions to be executed within the [peripheral]” (see Danknick, col. 7, lines 12-20 and col. 7, line 66 through col. 9, line 26).

Since Noble and Dunphy likewise do not disclose, teach or suggest the above noted features of Applicants’ invention, Applicants’ independent claims 1, 8, 18, 36, 39, 43, 49, 55, 59, 67, 78, 80, 86, 91, 94 and 95, as well as the dependent claims 2-7, 9-17, 19-38, 40-42, 44-48, 50-53, 56-58, 60-66, 68-77, 79, 81-85, 87-90, 92, 93 and 96-113 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims), would not have been obvious from any reasonable combination of the cited prior art references.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Applicant submits herewith a Petition for Extension of Time of two months and hereby petitions for any additional extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any additional required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 5, 2001

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:
 - a) retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a configurable system;
 - b) outputting explanatory information corresponding [with] to at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter; and
 - c) organizing said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said information and said value associated with said parameter, into a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting the documentation, or a portion of the documentation, for said configurable system.

8. (Twice Amended) A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:
 - a) retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a configurable system into a computer;

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b) outputting explanatory information corresponding [with] to at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion thereof; and

c) constructing a table of contents for said documentation, or a portion thereof.

18. (Twice Amended) A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

a) retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a configurable system into a computer;

b) outputting explanatory information corresponding [with] to at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion thereof; and

c) generating an index of at least selected parameters of said configuration parameters, and said explanatory information, said index detailing relative location of at least one of said selected parameters and at least a portion of said explanatory information within said document.

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36. (Twice Amended) A system for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising:

a first computer having data communication capability;

means for retrieving configuration parameters from a configurable system and communicating said parameters into said first computer;

means for generating explanatory information specific to said configurable system in accordance with said configuration parameters;

means for organizing said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said explanatory information and values associated with said configuration parameters, into a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting a documentation, or a portion of said documentation, for said configurable system; and

means for outputting said documentation.

39. (Three Times Amended) A system for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising:

a) a collector computer program adapted to retrieve configuration parameters from at least one configurable system;

b) a documentation generator program, comprising:

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- i. a template having explanatory information and place holders indicating placement of one or more configuration parameters;
- ii. a data parser in communication with said collector program, said parser adapted to parse said configuration parameters into associated values and merge said values into said template; and
- iii. an output module adapted to organize said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said explanatory information and said values associated with said configuration parameters and to output said template with said merged values in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion of said documentation, for said at least one configurable system.

43. (Twice Amended) A method for automated production of documentation for configurable computerized system, comprising the steps of:

- a) downloading a collector computer program to a first computer which is in communication with a configurable system;
- b) collecting configuration parameters from said configurable system using said collector program;
- c) transmitting said configuration parameters into a second computer having a documentation generator program operable thereon;

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- d) outputting, using said documentation generation program, a document in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, comprising:
- i. explanatory information_i regarding at least a portion of said configuration parameters;
 - ii. said portion of said configuration parameters_i and
 - iii. a table of contents detailing relative location of at least certain segments of said explanatory information.

49. (Three Times Amended) A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

- a) coupling a computer with at least a portion of a configurable system via an Intranet;
- b) retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from said configurable system into said computer;
- c) outputting explanatory information corresponding with at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter; and
- d) organizing said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said information and said value associated with said parameter, into a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting the documentation, or a portion of the documentation, for said configurable system.

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55. (Twice Amended) A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

- a) coupling a computer with at least a portion of a configurable system via an Intranet;
- b) retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a configurable system into a computer;
- c) outputting explanatory information, corresponding with at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter, in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion thereof; and
- d) constructing a table of contents for said documentation, or a portion thereof.

59. (Twice Amended) A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

- a) coupling a computer with at least a portion of a configurable system via an Intranet;
- b) retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a configurable system into a computer;
- c) outputting explanatory information, corresponding with at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter, in a narrative format

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descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion thereof; and

d) maintaining an activity log detailing operations of said steps of retrieving and outputting.

67. (Twice Amended) A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

a) coupling a computer with at least a portion of a configurable system via an Intranet;

b) retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a configurable system into a computer;

c) outputting explanatory information, corresponding with at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter, in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion thereof; and

d) generating an index of at least selected parameters of said configuration parameters, and said explanatory information, said index detailing relative location of at least one of said selected parameters and at least a portion of said explanatory information within said document.

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78. (Twice Amended) A system for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising:

a computer adapted to be coupled to a configurable system via an Intranet;

means for retrieving configuration parameters from said configurable system into said computer;

means for generating explanatory information specific to said configurable system in accordance with said configuration parameters;

means for organizing said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said explanatory information and values associated with said configuration parameters, into a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting a documentation, or a portion of said documentation, for said configurable system; and

means for outputting said documentation.

80. (Twice Amended) A system for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising:

a) a computer coupled to said configurable system via an Intranet;

b) a collector program module operated on said computer and adapted to retrieve configuration parameters from at least one configurable system;

c) a documentation generator program module, comprising:

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- i. a template having explanatory information and place holders indicating placement of one or more configuration parameters;
- ii. a data parser in communication with said collector program module, said parser adapted to parse said configuration parameters into associated values and merge said values into said template; and
- iii. an output module adapted to organize said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said explanatory information and said values associated with said configuration parameters, and to output said template with said merged values in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion of said documentation, for said at least one configurable system.

86. (Twice Amended) A method for automated production of documentation for configurable computerized system, comprising the steps of:

- a) retrieving configuration parameters from a configurable system, into a computer that is in communication with said configurable system via an Intranet;
- b) selecting explanatory information in accordance with said configuration parameters;
- c) outputting, in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, a document comprising:
 - i. said explanatory information;

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- ii. values associated with said configuration parameters; and
- iii. a table of contents detailing relative location of at least certain segments of said explanatory information.

91. (Twice Amended) A self documenting configurable system, comprising:
- a) explanatory information related to said configurable system;
 - b) at least one software module constructed to
 - i. merge a plurality of configuration parameters of said configurable system with corresponding portions of said explanatory information related to said configurable system,
 - ii. organize said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said explanatory information and values associated with said configuration parameters, and
 - iii. output said explanatory information and said configuration parameters in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form a document specific to an instance of said configurable system.

94. (Amended) A method for automated production of documentation for a configurable software system, having at least a portion of its behavior modifiable by configuration parameters stored in a computer accessible store, said method comprising the steps of:

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- a) embedding into said configurable software system a software module constructed to merge configuration parameters and explanatory information associated with said configuration parameters;
- b) retrieving said configuration parameters, said configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from said configurable system into a computer;
- c) outputting explanatory information corresponding with at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter; and
- d) organizing said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said information and said value associated with said parameter, into a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting the documentation, or a portion of the documentation, describing specifically said configurable software system as configured.

95. (Amended) A self documenting configurable software system having configuration parameters stored in at least one computer data store, comprising:

- a) a first software module constructed to retrieve at least a portion of said configuration parameters from said computer data store; and
- c) a second software module constructed to
 - i. merge explanatory information and related parameters of at least said portion of said configuration parameters,

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- ii. organize said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said information and values associated with said relates parameters, into a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting a document, or a portion of the document, containing a description specific to said configurable system, and
- iii. output said document.